

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/000180

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F5/443 A61F5/448

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 039 464 A (ESPERANZA GALINDO) 19 June 1962 (1962-06-19) the whole document	1-5
X	US 2003/004477 A1 (GOTHJAELPSEN LAILA BUSK ET AL) 2 January 2003 (2003-01-02) paragraphs '0077!-'0081!; figure 9	1-5
A	WO 02/05735 A (HOOD WILLIAM) 24 January 2002 (2002-01-24) page 12, line 4 -page 13, line 15	1



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 May 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/05/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Krassow, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2004/000180

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 6
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 6

Claim 6 seeks to define the invention by reference to the figures, and without defining any technical features (Article 6.2 PCT). The resulting lack of clarity is such that it is impossible to exactly determine the scope for which protection is sought rendering a meaningful search impossible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB2004/000180

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 3039464	A	19-06-1962	NONE	
US 2003004477	A1	02-01-2003	DK 116696 A	23-04-1998
			AU 721675 B2	13-07-2000
			AU 4616397 A	15-05-1998
			CA 2269575 A1	30-04-1998
			CN 1233945 A	03-11-1999
			WO 9817212 A1	30-04-1998
			EP 0998247 A1	10-05-2000
			JP 2001502570 T	27-02-2001
			NO 991905 A	22-06-1999
			AT 232747 T	15-03-2003
			AU 729075 B2	25-01-2001
			AU 4616297 A	15-05-1998
			CA 2269325 A1	30-04-1998
			CN 1233965 A	03-11-1999
			DE 69719206 D1	27-03-2003
			DE 69719206 T2	13-11-2003
			WO 9817329 A1	30-04-1998
			EP 0938349 A1	01-09-1999
			ES 2189981 T3	16-07-2003
			JP 2001502569 T	27-02-2001
			NO 991904 A	22-06-1999
			US 2002120032 A1	29-08-2002
			AT 219913 T	15-07-2002
			AU 726169 B2	02-11-2000
			AU 7425898 A	30-12-1998
			BR 9809692 A	11-07-2000
			CA 2291035 A1	03-12-1998
			CN 1258208 T	28-06-2000
			DE 69806379 D1	08-08-2002
			DE 69806379 T2	06-03-2003
			DK 68998 A	27-11-1998
			WO 9853771 A1	03-12-1998
			DK 984750 T3	28-10-2002
			EP 0984750 A1	15-03-2000
			ES 2177009 T3	01-12-2002
			JP 2001526576 T	18-12-2001
			NO 995740 A	18-01-2000
			PL 336960 A1	31-07-2000
			US 6332879 B1	25-12-2001
			AU 7426598 A	30-12-1998
			WO 9854269 A1	03-12-1998
			EP 0985006 A1	15-03-2000
WO 0205735	A	24-01-2002	AU 7638101 A	30-01-2002
			WO 0205735 A1	24-01-2002
			GB 2381200 A , B	30-04-2003